



Utah GED Testing Information

The General Educational Development Test (GED) was developed in 1942 to measure major and lasting outcomes and concepts associated with a traditional four-year high school education. The test consists of questions in five subject areas: language arts (writing), social studies, language arts (reading), science, and mathematics. A GED Certificate is awarded upon successful completion of the five subtests. The GED Test is normed so 40 percent of graduating HS seniors would fail the GED Test.

Value of a GED: According to a survey of college admissions officers performed by the American Council on Education, approximately 95 percent of colleges and universities accept the GED in lieu of a high school diploma. **All Utah colleges and universities accept a GED.** Just as high school GPAs must be higher than average for entrance to some universities, so must GED scores be higher than average to enter certain universities. **Most employers**, including governments, accept the GED on par with a high school diploma for entry into and retention of employment.

Number of GED Examinees: Annually, about 7,000 Utah residents, with a pass rate of about 80 percent, take GED Tests in English or Spanish, or in Braille, large print, or audiocassette in either language.

Who is Currently Eligible in Utah to Take GED Tests:

1. If a person is 18 years old and his/her senior class has graduated, he/she is permitted to take the GED Test at any time.
2. If a person is 17 or 18 years old and his/her senior class has **not** graduated, he/she is required to submit the following materials to the GED testing center before GED testing is allowed:
 - a. A letter from the school district within which he/she resides indicating that he/she is not regularly enrolled in school and
 - b. A letter from his/her parent or legal guardian authorizing the test.
(Applicants who present a marriage certificate are exempt from this second requirement.)
3. Persons who are 16 or younger may NOT take the GED Tests in Utah.

Registration Requirements for GED Testing:

1. Current government-issued picture identification that has the person's name, photo, address, birth date, and signature on it
2. \$55 testing fee

Special Accommodations: Many high school students and adults have learning, emotional, or physical disabilities. GED Testing Services (GEDTS) has created a way to offer special accommodations for some of these documented disabilities. Information is available at the GED website for accommodation information and other matters.

New GED Test Series Starts January 1, 2011: Current 2002 GED Tests go into permanent mothballs and new GED Tests replace them on January 01, 2011. Hence, all examinees must complete current GED testing before GED testing centers cease using the "old" GED Tests. The combining of new scores with old scores is **not** possible.

For Internet Information: www.utahged.info

GED — "Prove Yourself"

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GED Accommodations

Several questions have arisen about what is allowed for GED testing accommodations. When in doubt, please ask. Being too restrictive can be as “harmful” as being too liberal. Please study and know the policies. A list of accommodations can be found on the GED website at:

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/adulted/ged/accommodation/processing.htm>

What **GED test accommodations (9)** need to be approved by the state office using the forms for requesting accommodations?

- Extended time
- Frequent, supervised breaks
- Private room
- Large print with extended time
- Audiocassette version
- Calculator, talking calculator (for Part Two of the Math test)
- Braille version -- Use of a braille
- Deaf Interpreter for test instructions
- Printed instructions

What **GED test accommodations (15)** can be provided automatically (i.e. that do not require prior state office approval)? **IN ALL CASES**, you must inspect the items before they are allowed into the testing room.

- Wearing hats with brims to minimize the effects of fluorescent lighting
- Priority seating to avoid distractions
- Large print test forms with normal time limit
- Earplugs -- hearing protectors
- Glasses with tinted lens, goggles, a magnifying glass
- Allergy/dust masks or other chemical sensitivity masks
- Gloves
- Straight-edge without any markings
- One test per day
- Colored transparency overlays
- Clear overlays with colored highlighter
- Post-it notes to mark spatial direction
- Adaptive devices, such as pencil holders, muscle, skeletal aids such as wrist braces, etc. that the candidate provides
- Organizers/learning strategies written on scratch paper from memory
- Other similar aids that are compensatory, and which do not give an advantage to the test taker

If having a animal in the testing room is requested please call Murray Meszaros, State GED Administrator (801-538-7870).

What **GED test accommodations** most likely (99%) would not be approved by the state office.

- Food and drinks
- Rulers
- Other calculators
- Big coats at the seats of examinees
- Their pens and pencils
- Their scratch paper
- Anything audio